

# Career Tech Matters

by Dennis Franks • Jan. 25, 2019

In 1975, Jeff Hartmus was a student in the first class to complete a program at what was then the Pickaway-Ross Vocational School.

Through the years he returned to Pickaway-Ross, first to take Adult Education classes in Public Safety and then to teach in Adult Education.

In 2004, he was appointed to fill a seat on Pickaway-Ross' Board of Education and has been vice president for most of that time.

"I like to say that being on the board pays. And I figured it out once and it works out to about 3 cents an hour. You don't do it for the money," Jeff said. "It's about trying to make it better for someone else."

Jeff is a proponent of giving back to his community. He does so as a member of the Chillicothe City Schools Board of Education and the Chillicothe Parks & Recreation Board.

His service is more than attending monthly meetings. He reviews the agendas and if he has a question, he seeks out answers.

"I like to understand what I'm looking at."

But his service runs deeper. As a board member for two school districts, he often visits schools in the districts.

"I look at it like it's a good way to stay in touch with what's going with the kids and the teachers," he said. "I don't think sitting on the board and never having any contact is appropriate."

Just as Jeff wants to understand what's on school board agendas, he wants to ensure that policies he helps pass are beneficial to students and teachers.

"What if a policy we pass is stopping them from



The Pickaway-Ross Joint Vocational School District Board of Education, front row, from left: Tony Reeser, Todd Stevens, Byron Lloyd, Jeff Hartmus and Bob Bower; back row, from left, Andrew Vitatoe, Joy Shoemaker, Sue Hopkins, Richard Everman, Darrell Cottrill and Byron Welch.

accomplishing something," Jeff said. The best way to know is by visiting classrooms and speaking with those teachers and students, he said.

"Our goal is to help kids. We want to get kids out of ruts they're forced into and help them do something with their life."

January is School Board Recognition Month and this year's theme is All-Star Team. Jeff is just one member of Pickaway-Ross' board member team, which is made up of board President Byron Lloyd and board members Bob Bower, Darrell Cottrill, Richard Everman, Sue Hopkins, Tony Reeser, Joy Shoemaker, Todd

Stevens, Andrew Vitatoe and Byron Welch.

I appreciate what each of them gives to the district and hope you will join me in thanking them for their tireless service.

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